JUNE 8, 2007

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on June 8. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

President's Report

The President reported on his activities since the last meeting of Provincial Executive. He was very active in the media on issues of education funding, teacher allocations, the provincial budget, violence in schools, mathematics curriculum, the Teacher Recruitment Fairs, and the CAPTO meetings held in St. John's. He attended numerous meetings in his capacity as President including Education Week Opening Ceremonies, CTF Board of Directors meetings, various retirement dinners, liaison meetings with the Department of Education and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors of Education, as well as several other events representing the Association. The President also provided a detailed report on highlights of the meetings of CTF officers and directors that took place April 15-17 in Ottawa.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive members reviewed the Priorities Document and were updated by Administrative Staff on various elements of the priorities including objectives, timelines and action updates. The priorities are: quality of teachers' work life/contract negotiations; membership awareness; and professionalism/accountability.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees

Table Officers

- The March 2008 Table Officers, Executive and Joint Council meetings will be moved to April 2 for Table Officers, April 3 for Executive and April 4-5 for Joint Council.
- The Group Insurance Trustees for 2007-08 will be: Callista Burridge (Chair), Don Case, Bill Chaisson, Darryn Cramm, Derek Drover, Rhonda French and Melanie Kavanagh.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Communications / Political Action Committee

- The organization of Education Week and the Opening Ceremonies will be carried out by the provincial Communications/Political Action Committee in consultation with the communications officer and a resource booklet will be made available in print as well as online through the VTC.
- The NLTA mission statement will be revised to read as follows: We dedicate ourselves to the professional excellence and personal well-being of teachers, through support, advocacy, educational leadership and the development and delivery of outstanding programs and services.

For further information contact Jackie Maloney, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Council Restructuring

An update on the restructuring of the Special Interest Councils was provided to Provincial Executive by the Chair of the Committee, Bill Chaisson, and George Tucker from the Professional Development Division. Significant progress has been made in the restructuring of the councils and at the three levels-based councils including meetings, website development, newsletters, budgets and program plans. This was the last meeting of the committee and the staff in the Professional Development Division will continue to have responsibility for supporting the work of the councils.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on SIC Restructuring or George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion

The following recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion were accepted by Provincial Executive:

- A Teacher (Staff) Health and Wellness Promotion Program will be developed by NLTA.

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- The model utilizing the provincial Healthy Students Healthy Schools (HSHS) initiative will be adopted for the Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Program with the key component being that a position on the school living healthy team under the HSHS will be established for a teacher responsible for coordinating health and wellness initiatives specifically dedicated to teachers (staff), based on interests identified in a teacher (staff) needs assessment.
- Release time will be obtained for three blocks of three-four days for five-six teachers to develop a resource binder for schools and this will be coordinated by the NLTA with input from school health promotion liaison officers and other resource people. The binder will include the recommended model and processes for the Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Program; a teacher needs assessment including baseline information; a year end assessment survey, detailed resources including suggested activities, information, etc. The selection of teachers shall be discussed with the HSHS committee and be based on expertise required for the applicable resource modules.
- The process of health and wellness to be followed by schools participating in the Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Program will include:
  - a teacher volunteer with specific designation for responsibility for teacher health and wellness promotion (sitting on the school healthy living team, if one exists).
  - a teacher needs assessment, as provided in the resource binder, being conducted by the teacher representative above to determine areas of teacher (staff) interest in health and wellness.
  - specific initiatives/commotions and activities being actioned during the year to address teacher (staff) health and wellness priorities.
  - a year end evaluation tool, as provided in the resource binder, being conducted to measure progress of the Program.
- Where appropriate schools may form a teacher coordinating team to assist in implementing and coordinating activities of a Teacher Health and Wellness Program for a school or group of neighbouring schools.
- The NLTA will engage in discussions with the co-chairs of the HSHS to formalize cooperative efforts in both school initiatives and teacher health and wellness initiatives.
- Teacher (staff) health and wellness initiatives will be coordinated with HSHS where possible.
- A pilot project will be implemented as soon as practicable with a representative number of schools selected from each district.
- The NLTA will lobby the Department of Education and school districts to assign a district person with responsibility for coordination of resource development and implementation of teacher (staff) health and wellness promotion.
- The NLTA Group Insurance Trustees will be requested to provide a fund for teacher health and wellness promotion for the purpose of providing grants for teacher health and wellness initiatives.
- An annual letter from the President of NLTA will be written to NLTA school representatives informing them of the Teacher (Staff) Health and Wellness Promotion Program, and encouraging recruitment of teacher health and wellness facilitators for the school living healthy teams.
- The NLTA will explore the possible role of special interest councils in communication and promotion of the Teacher (Staff) Health and Wellness Program.
- The NLTA will engage in discussion with the EAP Coordinating Committee regarding the structure of the Employee Assistance Program. Such discussions could include but not be limited to:
  - expanding the role and services of the EAP to include overall teacher well-being;
  - allowing EAP coordinators to co-ordinate teacher health and wellness promotion province-wide and expanding services of the EAP.
- The NLTA will establish a standing Advisory Committee on Teacher Health and Wellness, the function of which would be to promote and sustain a focus on teacher wellness and active living. The committee would advise and provide guidance to the NLTA Provincial Executive and EAP Coordinators on priorities, development, implementation and evaluation of strategic health and wellness programming for teachers.

Standing Committees for 2007-09

Committee	Chairperson
Communications/ Political Action	Gabriel Ryan
Curriculum	Jeanne Williams
Equity Issues in Education	Jackie Maloney
Finance and Property	James Dinn
Group Insurance	Callista Burridge
Membership Benefits and Services	Wade Verge
Professional Issues	Jean Murphy

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Branch Contact Assignments 2007-09

Executive Member	Branches
Sean Noah, President	* All Branches
Callista Burridge	Baie Verte Peninsula, Deer Lake, Green Bay, Table Mountain, Taylor's Brook
Lily Cole	Burin-Marystown, Labrador West, Lake Melville, Southern Shore, Waterford Valley
James Dinn	Bell Island, Marconi, Northern Light, St. John's Centre
Derek Drover	Bay d'Espoir, Belleoram-Wreck Cove, Exploits Valley, Harton, Seagaulher
Dean Ingram	Baccalieu, Churchill Falls, Clarenbridge, Coastal Labrador South, Nutak Labradorimi
Jackie Maloney	GranForLine, Placentia, Rushoon-Terrenceville, St. Brendan's
Jean Murphy	Aurora, Belle Mer, Bremco, Ingornachoix, Long Range
Paul Pinsent	Appalachia, Burgeo, Humber, Port aux Basques, Rameaux
Gabriel Ryan	Conception Bay Centre, Conception Bay South, St. Mary's Bay, Upper Trinity South
Wade Verge	Fogo Island, Ganova, Hamilton Sound, Notre Dame, Trinity-Deadman's Bay
Jeanne Williams	Bay Roberts, Carbonear, Landfall, Trinity, T. Bay

* The President (and, in his absence, the Vice-President) will also be an alternate for visitation to any branch if the scheduled contact person is unavailable.

Conferences for Beginning Teachers

A report on the Conferences for Beginning Teachers was provided to Provincial Executive by Beverley Park from the Professional Development Division. Four conferences were held across the province and participation was limited to first year teachers who had no teaching experience prior to September 2006. The series of conferences were offered in partnership with Memorial University's Faculty of Education and the school districts. The agenda covered such topics as student motivation, classroom management, student learning and organizational learning, the personal/professional balance, and networking and sharing were important elements.

For further information contact Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Other Business

- Issues and concerns relating to supervision of school grounds will be investigated and reviewed in the context of the Safe and Caring Schools policy.
- The Association will investigate the expectations on admnistrators and teachers in the operation of the new policy on school textbooks and will provide advice and direction to its members.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for comment, actioning or further discussion: policy on tobacco-free school grounds; part-time teaching positions; and evaluation policy.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.

2007-09 Executive

A brief meeting of the 2007-09 Provincial Executive took place following the 2005-07 Executive meeting. The agenda items included an overview of NLTA committee assignments, committee guidelines and terms of reference, branch contact assignment, and the meeting schedule for the fall.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President-elect or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **September 13-15, 2007**.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President-elect or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.